

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1-8 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE2004/001289 and adds new claims 9-22. The new claims conform to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

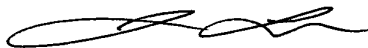
In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.125(b), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(ii) and § 1.125(c), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE2004/001289 includes an International Search Report, dated November 3, 2004. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application.

Applicant asserts that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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FUEL INJECTOR AND METHOD FOR ITS INSTALLATION

~~Related Art~~ Field of the Invention

The present invention ~~is based on~~ relates to a fuel injector according to the species of Claim 1 and a method for installing a fuel injector according to Claim 8.

5 Background Information

In known fuel injectors ~~already known~~, fuel filters are pressed into a fuel-intake nipple and affixed therein by a brass ring. This manner of fastening, first of all, involves the risk of abrasion and the formation of chips, which can
10 lead to malfunctions of the fuel injector. On the other hand, the use of expensive brass as a component material is a cost factor that considerably increases the cost of the fuel injector.

A fuel injector, in which a fuel filter is manufactured in one
15 piece with a retaining collar, is ~~already known from~~ the described in German patent document DE 43 25 842 A1. The retaining collar radially extends beyond the fuel intake nipple and has a lip outside the fuel intake nipple. The circumferential lip of the retaining collar, together with a
20 groove on the outer circumference of the fuel intake nipple, forms a snap-in connection by which the fuel filter is fastened in a defined manner. Only a clearance fit exists between the base element of the fuel filter and the inner wall of the fuel intake nipple, so that any build-up of shavings in
25 the interior of the fuel injector is prevented.

A particular disadvantage of the fuel injector ~~known from~~ the described in German patent document DE 43 25 842 A1 is the large amount of processing time spent in affixing the filter to either the adjusting sleeve or the fuel intake nipple. In

addition, the filter and adjusting sleeve are made of different materials, whereby shavings and abrasion are formed at the contact surfaces, predominantly on the plastic of the filter, which can lead to malfunctions of the fuel injector
5 due to the deposition of the particles.

~~Summary of the Invention~~Summary

In contrast to the ~~related~~known art, the fuel injector according to the present invention, ~~having the characterizing features of Claim 1,~~ and the method according to the present
10 invention for installing a fuel injector, ~~having the characterizing features of Claim 8,~~ have provide the advantage of a quick and cost-effective production and installation, and as well as a reliable fixation of the filter element in the fuel injector, without the risk of shavings.

15 This is achieved by press-fitting the filter element with an outer contour of a tubular support of the fuel injector.

~~Advantageous further refinements and improvements of the fuel injector mentioned in Claim 1 are rendered possible by the measures specified in the dependent claims.~~

20 The outer contour of the tubular support advantageously has grooves into which a fiber glass plastic extrusion coat of the filter element is press-fitted under pressure.

It is also advantageous that the grooves are able to be introduced in the tubular support in a simple manner by
25 machine-cutting or with the aid of a structural steel.

It is also advantageous that the press-fitting of the filter element is implemented by the installation of an extension sleeve whose inner diameter is slightly smaller than an outer diameter of the filter element.

30 The filter element is advantageously able to be manufactured like conventional filter elements, in the shape of a cup and

made from cloth material and a fiber glass plastic extrusion coat.

~~Brief Description of the Drawing~~

5 ~~An exemplary embodiment of the present invention is represented in the drawing in simplified form and elucidated in greater detail in the following description.~~

~~The figures show:~~ Brief Description of the Drawings

10 Figure 1A ~~A~~shows a schematic section~~sectional view~~ through an exemplary embodiment of a fuel injector according to the ~~related~~known art.

Figure 1B ~~A~~shows a schematic cut-away view of portion region IB of the fuel injector shown in Figure 1A, ~~in region IB in Figure 1A.~~

15 Figure 2A ~~A~~shows a schematic representation of an exemplary embodiment of a filter element for a fuel injector configured according to the present invention,~~and.~~

Figure 2B ~~A~~shows a schematic cut-away portion~~view~~ of a fuel injector configured according to the present invention, having a filter element according to Figure 2A.

20 ~~Detailed Description of the Exemplary Embodiment~~ Detailed Description

For a better understanding of the measures according to the present invention, Figure 1A, first of all, shows a part-sectional, schematic representation of a longitudinal section
25 through a fuel injector 1 according to the ~~related~~known art, which is suited, in particular, for the injection of fuel into an intake manifold (not shown further) of an internal combustion engine.

Fuel injector 1 includes a magnetic coil 2 which is wound on a coil brace 3. Coil brace 3 is encapsulated in a valve housing 4 and sealed off by a lid 5. A contact tag 6 is formed on coil brace 3.

5 Coil brace 3 is penetrated by a valve sleeve 7, which has a tubular design and includes a tubular support 8 wedged or soldered therein, which is used as inner pole of magnetic coil 2. Valve housing 4, for example, may be used as outer pole of magnetic coil 2. Downstream from tubular support 8 is an
10 armature 9 which is designed in one piece with a valve needle 10. Flow-through orifices 11 are provided in valve needle 10, which guide the fuel flowing through fuel injector 1 toward a sealing seat.

An annular filter 12 for filtering the fuel may be disposed in
15 the region of flow-through orifices 11. Valve needle 10 is in operative connection, ~~preferably~~e.g., by welding, with a valve-closure member 13 having a spherical shape in the exemplary embodiment, valve-closure member 13 forming a sealing seat together with a valve-seat body 14. Downstream
20 from the sealing seat, at least one spray-discharge orifice 15 is formed in a spray-orifice plate 34, via which the fuel is injected into the intake manifold (not shown further).

In the rest state of fuel injector 1, armature 9 is acted upon by a restoring spring 16 in such a way that fuel injector 1 is
25 held closed by the contact pressure of valve-closure member 13 on valve-seat body 14. Restoring spring 16 is situated in a recess 17 of armature 9 or tubular support 8 and is prestressed by an adjusting sleeve 18.

On the inflow side of adjusting sleeve 18, a cup-shaped filter
30 element 19 is ~~preferably~~ pressed into valve sleeve 7. Filter element 19 is provided with a brass ring 20, which allows reliable support of filter element 19 in fuel injector 1.

The fuel supplied by a central fuel supply 22 flows through fuel injector 1, through recess 17 and flow-through orifices 11, to the sealing seat and to spray-discharge orifice 15.

5 If an electric current is provided to magnetic coil 2 via an electrical line (not shown further) and contact tag 6, a magnetic field is generated that, if sufficiently strong, pulls armature 9 into magnetic coil 2, counter to the force of restoring spring 16 and counter to the flow direction of the fuel. This closes a working gap 23 formed between armature 9
10 and tubular support 8. The movement of armature 9 also carries along, in the lift direction, valve needle 10, which is formed in one piece with armature 9, so that valve-closure member 13 lifts off from valve-seat body 14 and fuel is guided to spray-discharge orifice 15.

15 Fuel injector 1 is closed as soon as the electric current energizing magnetic coil 2 is switched off and the magnetic field has decayed to such a degree that restoring spring 16 presses armature 9 away from tubular support 8, thereby moving valve needle 10 in the flow-off direction, and causing valve-
20 closure member 13 to set down on valve-seat body 14.

Figure 1B, in a part-sectional view, shows ~~thea~~ a cut-away view of region IB ~~portion~~ of fuel injector 1 illustrated in Figure 1A ~~and denoted by IB in Figure 1A~~. Identical components have ~~been provided~~ are identified with matching reference numerals.
25 A repetitious description of already discussed components ~~may beare~~ be omitted.

As already mentioned earlier, filter element 19 has the form of a cup and is made up of a filter 21, which ~~preferably is~~ may be made from a cloth material 24, and a brass ring 20 for
30 fixating filter element 19 in fuel injector 1. During the production, brass ring 20 is inserted in a molding die and, together with actual filter 21, is provided with a glass fiber

plastic extrusion coat 25. Brass ring 20 is preferably configured as deep-drawn component. Brass ring 20 and the complex sealing of the molding die cause high production costs of filter element 19 with brass ring 20.

5 In contrast, a fuel injector 1 configured according to the present invention is provided with a filter element 19 according to Figure 2A and 2B, which filter element is fixated directly on inner pole 8 of fuel injector 1, without the aid of a brass ring 20.

10 Figure 2A, in a schematic sectional view, shows an exemplary embodiment of a filter element 19, which is suitable for use in a fuel injector 1 configured according to the present invention. ~~Similar to known filter elements 19, filter~~ Filter element 19 has the shape of a cup. It is made of a cloth
15 material 24, which is provided with a fiber glass plastic extrusion coat 25.

However, according to the present invention, as illustrated in Figure 2B, filter element 19 is mounted on tubular support 8, acting as inner pole, of fuel injector 1. At an inflow-side
20 end 26 of tubular support 8, grooves 27 are provided in an outer contour 28 of tubular support 8, which grooves are able to be produced in a simple manner by machine-cutting or with the aid of a structural steel. Filter element 19 is slipped onto these grooves 27 in the region of glass fiber plastic
25 extrusion coat 25. Filter element 19 rests against a shoulder 29 of tubular support 8. Slipped-on filter element 19 has a slightly larger diameter than tubular support 8.

If an extension sleeve 30 is subsequently installed on tubular support 8, which is used for the connection to a fuel-
30 distributor line (not shown further), the outer diameter of filter element 19 is calibrated to the inner diameter of extension sleeve 30, which is slightly smaller than the outer

diameter of filter element 19. This presses filter element 19 into grooves 27 of tubular support 8 in the region of glass fiber plastic extrusion coat 25. A secure holding of the filter element in fuel injector 1 is ensured in this manner even with high temperature fluctuations. As a result of the measures according to the present invention, fuel injector 1 is able to be manufactured in a simple and more cost-effective manner because brass ring 20 is not required, without higher costs of other components.

10 The present invention is not limited to the exemplary embodiment represented and is suitable for ~~any other designs~~ of fuel injectors 1, e.g., for fuel injectors 1 for direct injection or fuel injectors 1 connected to a common-rail system. ~~In particular, any combination of individual features~~
15 ~~is possible.~~

~~Summary~~

Summary

A fuel injector ~~(1)~~ for fuel-injection systems of internal combustion engines includes a solenoid coil ~~(10)~~, a tubular support ~~(8)~~ acting as inner pole of the solenoid coil ~~(10)~~,
5 and a filter element ~~(19)~~, the filter element ~~(19)~~ being press-fitted with an outer contour ~~(26)~~ of ~~[[a]]~~ the tubular support ~~(8)~~ of the fuel injector ~~(1)~~.

~~(Figure 2B)~~